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DOMINION OF CANADA

MANITOBA

AND THE

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES

BEING A REPORT

BY MR. P. R. RITCHIE OF ESSEX ENGLAND

OF A TOUR EXTENDING

FROM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 1892



OTTAWA

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REPORT

OF

MR. P. R. RITCHIE, OF ESSEX, ENGLAND

ON

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER, 1892.

Mr. P. R. Ritchie left Stirlingshire, Scotland, where his father was extensively engaged in farming and where he himself had gained considerable agricultural experience, in June, 1886, for Essex, England, which county at that time was attracting a number of Scotch farmers. Five years' experience there somewhat dissatisfied him of the profitable return for the investment of capital and labour, owing chiefly to the successive wet seasons and the low prices that prevailed.

REPORT OF MR. P. R. RITCHIE, ON MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

Having farmed in Essex for about six years, and finding myself dissatisfied with present conditions and future prospects, I determined to see if I could not find some country in which capital and labour could not be better invested. My attention was drawn to Canada, and I determined to go and see for myself the agricultural advantages that the country could offer. Many of my farming

friends in Essex asked me to report to them on the resources and prospects of the country, and, being desirous myself of seeing as much of it as possible and examining it thoroughly, I applied to the Government for assistance. Through Mr. J. G. Colmer I was furnished by Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., G.C.M.G., the Canadian High Commissioner in London, with credentials to the Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion Government at Ottawa, and I sailed from Liverpool on the 24th March by the SS. "Parisian," desirous of making no hurried trip but to visit every part of the North-west and thoroughly investigate the state of agricultural affairs in the principal districts and to watch the whole progress of the farmer's year. Amongst the passengers on board the "Parisian" were Mr. E. H. Taylor, of the Dominion Lands Office at Winnipeg, Mr. J. W. Sandison, the most extensive wheat-grower in the North-west, and several young men who were successful farmers in the western provinces, had been home and were returning with newly married wives: from these men I gathered a deal of valuable information concerning the country. Mr. Sandison makes a trip every winter to Great Britain and hires some fresh hands for his work of the ensuing season, besides largely assisting in active emigration work. On this occasion he had seven men with him, and others had preceded him by previous steamers; afterwards, when at Brandon, I met several of these men, and without exception they all seemed happy and well contented with their lot; they were receiving wages of 20 to 25 dollars (4 to 5 pounds sterling) a month and board. We landed at Halifax on the 2nd of April after a pleasant voyage of nine days. It struck me that a better system of landing immigrants and their chattels might be adopted with advantage. It is only after great difficulty that one can discover one's baggage, as everything is discharged from the ship in a most promiscuous fashion. From Halifax I proceeded to Montreal, where I stayed a couple of days, and then went to Ottawa. Here I presented my letters of introduction and was received with great courtesy by the Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture, and the Hon. Edgar Dewdney, Minister of the Interior. I also met Mr. H. H. Smith, the land commissioner resident at Winnipeg, who furnished me with letters of introduction to land agents and homestead inspectors throughout the North-western country.

THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM OF CANADA.

Two miles from Ottawa is situated the Central Experimental Farm of the Dominion, over which I was shown by Professor Saunders, who is director of the Dominion experimental farms, five in number, situated at various points in the country. Besides Professor Saunders there are also resident on the farm, which is 500 acres in extent, an agriculturist, a dairy commissioner, an entomologist and botanist, a chemist, a horticulturist and a poultry manager, each specialist devoting his time and attention to experiments in his branch, which in every kind of grain and farm produce are always being made. The results of these experiments are published periodically, and sent to farmers throughout the Dominion. Also any farmer who wishes to have his grain tested in regard to its germinating powers, can have it analysed here free of charge. Again, several thousand 3-lb sample bags of grain are annually sent to farmers throughout the country, each farmer being requested to make reports as to the results. Special attention is given to dairying in all its branches and on the farm are kept a number of pure thorough-bred cattle of the principal breeds.

WINNIPEG AND VICINITY.

Leaving Ottawa on the morning of the 8th April I arrived in Winnipeg after a two days' journey, and was met by Mr. Ronaldson, a relative of mine, who drove me out to his place at Royal, which is situated on the banks of the Red River, 15 miles south of Winnipeg. Six miles from the city we passed the village of St. Norbert which is principally a French settlement, and where there is a Trappist Monastery. On the road to Royal there are numerous settlers along the banks of the Red River, chiefly French and Half-breeds; this was one of the earliest settlements in the country, but the land is too much wooded for extensive cultivation; other parts of it are lowly situated and wet, though here and there I found patches of from 5 to 15 acres under cultivation. At Royal the prairie proper commences. Farms here are on what are termed "river lots," only a few chains wide, and extending back from the river 2 or 3 miles; in early years the land was badly farmed, and allowed to get very dirty. Old settlers say that "French weed"

and thistles were brought in with seed from the States, others again maintain these noxious weeds came from Ontario. Two large farms, which I visited here, were to let or sell. One was the Jelly farm which at one time belonged to a contractor of that name, who had speculated, lost money and finally mortgaged the farm to the Commercial Bank of Winnipeg, whose property it now is. This farm had 200 acres ploughed; 100 of which were newly broken. It was let at the end of April to a Mr. Macdonald, an Ontario farmer, who sowed 150 acres with wheat and the rest with oats and barley. Although sown so late as it was (the last of it only being put in by about the middle of June), a good average crop was reaped and an ample return for the investment realized. The other farm is known as the Patterson farm, 312 acres in extent, which is the property of Messrs. Allan & Brydges, bankers, of Winnipeg. About 40 acres were under cultivation. I was offered the rental of this farm for a merely nominal sum, and realizing that it would be a most practical way of furthering my investigations, I determined to accept, and made an agreement with Mr. Ronaldson that he should do the labour and plough 15 acres more,—myself to supply the seed,—and that we should equally divide the proceeds. We sowed 25 acres with wheat, 15 with oats, and the remainder with two-rowed barley. The wheat was sown on the 23rd of April and reaped on the 17th of August; the oats were sown on the 17th of May and reaped on the 30th of August; and the barley was sown on the 14th of May and reaped on the 16th August.

BRANDON.

I left Winnipeg on the 29th April for Vancouver, on the Pacific coast, breaking my journey at Brandon, Moosomin, Indian Head, Medicine Hat and Calgary, long enough to make me acquainted with these localities, for it was my intention to thoroughly inspect the country on my return trip. While at Brandon I visited the experimental farm, where by that date they had already got most of their seeding done. At Mr. Sandison's gigantic grain farm, 3,000 acres in crop, they were sowing Red Fyfe wheat, of a grade known as No. 2, regular, with two Gatling gun seeders. The grain was being sown broadcast on wheat stubble and being ploughed in. At the Brassey Colonization Company's farms at Indian Head they were seeding with six press drills on land where the stubble had

been burned off. Here also, Major Bell, another very large grain grower, had six press drills at work, three horses on each, sowing wheat on fallow land. A section of land (640 acres) which had been sown on the Bell farm three weeks previously, was just beginning to show the green grain. A few miles west of Medicine Hat natural gas has been discovered while digging for water. This was being burned by a pipe straight out of the ground.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS AND THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

The scenery of the Rocky Mountains, through which the Canadian Pacific Railway bore me, I will not attempt to describe. Travellers that I have met, who have been all over the world, declare there is nothing to surpass it in grandeur. Vancouver, the terminus of the great Canadian Pacific Railway, is bound to become a town of great importance, for it is splendidly situated and has one of the best harbours on the Pacific coast. From here there is a regular steamship service to China and Japan, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's steamers are amongst the finest and best equipped afloat. The growth of Vancouver has been very rapid. In 1886 there was only one house on the town site: to-day there is a population of 20,000, and the city possesses buildings that would be a credit to any place. From Vancouver I took steamer across to Victoria, which is the capital of British Columbia, and was established as far back as 1858. Medical men recommend this place highly as a health resort, the climate being very temperate. What impresses me most during a brief sojourn in British Columbia is the immense amount of timber it contains. On all sides forests abound with trees of large dimensions. In the park at Vancouver there is a cedar 50 feet in circumference, a Douglas pine 44 feet, and a spruce 38 feet round. What good farming land there is, is dear, from \$60 to \$150 (£12 to £30) an acre being paid for it. On the hillsides much of the land has to be irrigated. The province's great wealth lies in its mineral resources. Minerals of all kinds are plentiful, and these only require development to make British Columbia a wealthy and important country. On my return from the coast I stopped off one day at the Glacier House, near the summit of the Selkirk Mountains, and three days I spent at Banff, which is rapidly becoming famous as a health and holiday resort. Ten square miles are reserved by the Government as a National

Park. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company have here a magnificent hotel, capable of accommodating over three hundred guests. Hot sulphur springs flow out of the mountains at several places, and they effect marvellous cures to bathers. Many people affected with severe rheumatism have gone away in less than a week's time completely cured.

CALGARY.

At Calgary I spent about a fortnight on my return from British Columbia; and again after I had visited the Edmonton country. The population of the town is 4,500, and its altitude is 3,388 feet above the level of the sea. It is the important centre of the trade of the ranching country which surrounds it, and is also the chief town of supply for the mining districts at the Rocky Mountains. Its buildings are the most substantial of any town between Winnipeg and Vancouver. The town is prettily situated, surrounded with high bluffs and hills, and the peaks of the Rocky Mountains are in view from most parts of the town on a clear day. The buildings are chiefly of good sandstone, which is found in abundance in the neighbourhood. The principal banks of Canada have agencies here. On my arrival I called on Mr. T. Stone, to whom I had introductions. He is the manager of the Canadian Agricultural Coal and Colonization Company, and also of the North-west Trading Company. The Canadian Agricultural Coal and Colonization Company was started ten years ago under the management of Sir John Lister-Kaye, but did not prove a paying concern. Under the management of Mr. Stone it is rapidly gaining ground. The company have ten farms of 10,000 acres each along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The number of stock on these farms are : 1,000 horses, 7,000 cattle, 20,000 sheep and 1,500 pigs; 5,000 acres of the company's land are under cultivation. The North-west Trading Company do an extensive dead meat trade in Calgary, and they also export to Vancouver and Victoria. To enable them to carry on this business successfully, they have built a slaughtering and cold storage establishment about a mile from Calgary. The trouble in shipping live cattle was the falling off in weight and quality during transit. The cold storage building is capable of holding carcasses of 250 cattle and 2,000 sheep. Here they can be preserved for several months. Ranchmen can bring

their cattle and sheep here, can see them killed and weighed in a very short time, and return home with the cash in their pockets.

LUMBER MILLS AT CALGARY.

The Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Company have the largest lumber mill west of the Lake of the Woods. Its capacity is 30,000 feet of lumber and 10,000 laths per day. Electric light is supplied cheaper in Calgary than in any city in Canada, there being two opposition companies. Mr. Thompson, the Homestead Inspector, drove me out to Quorn Ranch, a distance of about thirty miles. For twelve miles round Calgary the country is well settled up. Crop growing has not been very successful, the country being subject to drought, although in some cases oats have been grown 80 bushels to the acre and weighing 44 pounds. There is a good opening in this district for dairy-farming. The water is excellent, the nights are cool, and there is grass in abundance. I had a long talk with Mr. Ratcliffe, who has a creamery establishment twenty-five miles west of Calgary. He has found dairying very profitable. The Hudson's Bay Company buy all his butter at 25 cents (1s.) a pound. He milks on an average 35 cows, and he draws about \$40 (£8) per cow every year, besides having the increase of calves and the skimmed milk. The average price that good milch cows are bought for is \$30 to \$35 a head.

RANCHING IN ALBERTA.

Two of the principal ranchers in Alberta are the Quorn and the North-west Cattle Company. The Quorn Ranch is seventeen square miles in extent, and is held on a lease from the Government at one cent per acre. On it there are 1,500 horses and several thousand head of cattle. The twelve stallions are nearly all imported from some of the best blood in England, several of them having been prize winners. Three hundred of the mares were imported from Ireland four years ago, and a number of their stock will be sent this year to England to be trained for hunters and cavalry remounts. Horses bred in Alberta are noted for their endurance, and such a thing as a broken-winded horse has never been known there. This ranch will average 70 per cent of foals this year.

The North-west Cattle Company's Ranch consists of 240,000 acres, and there are 9,000 cattle and from 800 to 900 horses on it. Mr. Stimson, the manager, told me they would pay this year a dividend of 10 per cent. Other large ranches in the district are the Oxley, the Walrond, the High River Horse Ranch, and the Cochran Ranch. A smaller ranch I visited here was one belonging to Mr. Bryse Wright, who came from Ayrshire, Scotland. He has over 200 horses. His aim is to breed a heavy class horse for agricultural purposes. Two Clydesdale stallions that he had would please the eye of any fancier. One of them took first prize at the Calgary agricultural show last season. A team of three-year-olds of his he had just sold for town work for \$300 (£60). Some cousins of his, the Messrs. Turner, whom I met at the Calgary races, also from Ayrshire, have a ranch on Sheep Creek, about twenty-five miles from Calgary. They are breeding the same class of horses as Mr. Wright, and they find them the most remunerative. Along the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains there is some splendid ranching country. Water and natural shelter abound, and the grass is of the best quality and plentiful. This year a railway will be completed running south from Calgary to Macleod, and hence will be carried on through the Crow's Nest Pass to the Pacific Coast. This line will open up a new stretch of country, of which a great deal is suitable for either mixed farming or stock-raising.

CALGARY TO EDMONTON.

I left Calgary at 8 a.m. on the 26th of May, and reached Edmonton at 7 o'clock in the evening. The railway, which is of recent construction, having been opened in August, 1891, is 192 miles long. The country for the first 40 miles is rolling prairie, and then small patches of timber begin to dot the landscape. Further north there is timber in abundance. Several pretty lakes catch the eye from the railway, with rising banks, well wooded down to the water's edge. Villages are springing up along the line very rapidly, the two most important being Olds and Innisfail. Ninety miles north of Calgary, at the crossing of the Red Deer River, is the old settlement of Red Deer, now a rising town. The main town of Edmonton is situated on the north bank of the Saskatchewan. The railway terminates on the south side, and here another town is fast springing up. The river Saskatchewan at this point is about 800

feet wide, and the banks about 200 feet deep, which tends to make crossing both difficult and expensive. The town corporation have applied to Government to have a bridge built, and this will undoubtedly be done in the course of a short time. At present the crossing is made by a cable ferry-boat. Between the towns on the north and south sides of the river a good deal of jealousy exists, as to which is to be the principal one. In the Edmonton district I spent six days, and drove a distance of 200 miles, seeing the surrounding country and interviewing many settlers. Starting out west we crossed the Cree Indian Reserve. The Government Agent is Count de Cazes at whose house we camped for the night. The Indians here have quite a large crop in cultivation, and it is expected that next year they will be almost self-supporting. Traces of large beaver dams can be seen throughout this district, and beaver must have been very plentiful here in former days. Leaving the agency at 10 o'clock the next morning, we drove in a westerly direction across the Stony Plain. Amongst the first farmers we called on was Mr. R. Bremner, who came out to this country from Edinburgh in 1882. He had 125 acres of crop sown. Previous to this year, he had not sown much wheat, as there had been no market for it, but now that the railway had been built he intended putting in a bigger crop every year. Last year his average return was : oats, 80 bushels, and barley 40 bushels to the acre. A neighbour of his, Mr. Macfarlane, had about the same amount of crop in. The previous season he had grown 20 acres of wheat, which yielded 40 bushels per acre. From Macfarlane's we pursued a north-easterly direction through the Big Lake settlement to St. Albert. The country we passed through was somewhat heavily wooded, but large open spaces intervened suitable for moderate sized farms. Along the banks of the Big Lake are a number of Half-breed settlers, who went there some twenty or thirty years ago. They have nice houses, some of them two-story buildings. One of them named Cunningham, with whom I had a talk, had been farming there for twenty-two years. He has 400 acres of land, and two brothers of his have farms in the district of 320 acres each. Cunningham told me he had taken twenty crops of wheat off a 25-acre field in twenty-two years, the other two years having fallowed it. His yield last year was 45 bushels to the acre. The only severe storm which had ever done any damage to his crop was in 1875, when about half his crop had been wasted.

ST. ALBERT.

The village of St. Albert is one of the prettiest in the North-west. Here is the seat of the Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese. The village lies down in the hollow on the banks of the Sturgeon River. Above the village is the church with on either side the Bishop's house and a convent of Sisters of Charity, who conduct an hospital and orphanage. They are built symmetrically and complete a very pretty picture. From St. Albert they have telephone connection with Edmonton, nine miles to the south-east.

THE EDMONTON DISTRICT.

On my return to Edmonton, I went out with Mr. Johnstone, Homestead Inspector. The Cut Bank farm was the first we called at, owned by a Mr. Cust, who lives in Edmonton. The farm is worked by partnership, or "on shares." Two men do the labour and get half the crop. Mr. Cust supplies the horses, implements and seed. 12,000 bushels of oats were threshed from this farm after the harvest of 1891. Another farm I visited was Clyderhouse, the property of a Mr. Mitchell who hails from Manchester, England, and had only been settled nine months. His wife who had been accustomed to town life, felt the loneliness of the country very keenly. At Sandy Cameron's we saw a fine flock of sheep, and his cattle were also looking well. Sandy migrated from Manitoba in 1882, and prefers the climate of Alberta. About seven miles from Cameron's we called on a Mr. Caron, who goes in for dairying. He has thirty cows milking, and uses a separator and churn, worked by horse power. By using the separator a large proportion of cream is extracted from the milk, and the skimmed milk, still warm, can be got at once for the calves. We put up a night at the Merchiston ranch, which belongs to a Mr. Hardisty, son of the late Senator of that name, who was long one of the Hudson's Bay Company's chief officers. Hardisty was educated at Merchiston College, Scotland, after which his farm is named. The ranch has only just been started. His herd of cattle consists of 80 Polled Galloways, and the same number of other breeds. His house is a good two-story building, and the stable and corrals are well finished.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN.

The next day we reached Fort Saskatchewan, where is stationed a detachment of the North-west Mounted Police, eighty strong, under the command of Superintendent Griesbach. The soil is of a more sandy nature than at Edmonton, but of good quality. Here I saw samples of the gold which is found in the Saskatchewan River. It is washed out from bars along the Saskatchewan in the form of fine dust. Every year the floods bring down fresh deposits of mud, in which the gold is found. To extract the gold from the sand, a blanket is used, covered with mercury, to which the gold adheres, the sand being washed off with the water. Miners can make from two to six dollars (8s. 4d. to 25s.) a day, and the amount washed out last season was \$20,000 worth. From Fort Saskatchewan I drove out four miles to see a party of surveyors. Mr. Dennis, who was in charge, has surveyed in Manitoba and the North-west for fifteen years, and from him I gathered much valuable information concerning the country. After leaving Fort Saskatchewan I called on a Mr. Walker of the Beaver Hill farm. Mr. Walker is a hard worker, or what is commonly called in that country "a rustler." He commenced farming in 1884, \$1,400 in debt. To-day he has paid off his debt, has a clear title to 320 acres of land, owns 50 head of stock and 8 horses, and \$8,000 would not buy him out. The same night (May 26) we camped at Mr. J. C. C. Bremner's of the Mount Farm. Mr. Bremner's chief occupation is horse raising. He has 75 mares, mostly Montana-bred, weighing on an average about 1,200 lbs. and he is crossing these with a Clydesdale horse. A small flock of 47 ewes that he had was the most prolific I have heard of, the increase having been over 200 per cent, not a few ewes having presented him with three lambs. The sheep were kept fenced in near the house, and during the winter had been fed with cake and oats. They were of the Leicester and Shropshire breeds, and the ram, a very fine Leicester, weighed over 200 lbs.

CLIMATE AND SOIL, COAL AND TIMBER RESOURCES OF THE EDMONTON COUNTRY.

We visited many other farms, too numerous to mention individually. At several of them we saw timothy growing, which had been sown for several years. The crops were well advanced considering

the lateness of the season. The soil in this district is a rich sandy black loam, very similar to that of Manitoba, with a clay sub-soil. In Eastern Canada it is imagined by some that the Edmonton country must be too far north to successfully grow wheat, but when one is there, one hears settlers talking of their crops at the Athabasca Landing, and the Hudson's Bay Company men have told me they have seen fine crops in the districts of the Peace and Mackenzie Rivers, several hundred miles further north. Edmonton, as a matter of fact, is on the same latitude, 54° (longitude 114°), as Dublin and York, and consequently further south than Scotland. Coal is found all over the district, and may be seen standing out from the banks of the Saskatchewan and Sturgeon Rivers. The seams vary from two to twenty feet in depth. What is burned in the town of Edmonton is taken from a tunnel run in under the town from the bed of the river. Fifty miles to the north of Edmonton large timber forests abound, which ensure the district of a plentiful supply of lumber for ages to come.

On my way back from Edmonton I stopped off at Wetoskewin, 150 miles north of Calgary. Mr. Dowker, Canadian Pacific Railway land examiner, invited me to go up the Battle River with him, where he was camped out inspecting lands. I had heard of this district as one of the best on the Calgary and Edmonton Railway. The soil round the station is light, but as you go further back you find it richer and heavier. There is plenty of splendid land not yet taken up, close to the railway, and splendidly watered. Timber is not so plentiful as in the Edmonton country, but there is quite sufficient for building and fencing purposes. Duck and prairie chicken were more abundant here than in any place I had visited in the North-west.

A FARM AT NAMAKA.

I left Calgary for Lethbridge on the 12th of June, and stopped off at Namaka, 40 miles south of Calgary, where the most important of the Canadian Agricultural Coal and Colonization Company's farms is situated. Mr. Middleton, the manager, who had been advised of my coming, met me at the station. He comes from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and a brother of his is manager at Dunmore. After breakfast we drove about seven miles across the Blackfoot Indian reserve to where the farm's stock was kept. There are over

two hundred cattle here, mostly Herefords. They were looking well and were in good condition, although they had been out all winter. The horses were all looking well. Thirty yearlings presented as fine an appearance as any breeder could desire. Mr. Middleton expected to have forty-five this year. The mares are all good Clydes, imported from Ontario, and the stallion is as fine a horse as I saw in the country. Two hundred more head of cattle were yard-fed on this farm during the winter. When killed they weighed from eight hundred to ten hundred pounds apiece. They were fed on grain ground on the premises by windmill power. The company have these windmills at each of their ten farms, and very convenient things they are. The cost of erecting them is only one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars each, and they seldom require any repair. It seemed to me that every farmer who could afford it should invest in one. Farmers in the country are only just beginning to realize the important value of stall-feeding cattle. The price at which fat animals can be sold in the spring is twice as great as in the fall, when beef is very plentiful.

THE LETHBRIDGE COAL MINES.

The railway from Dunmore to Lethbridge is a narrow gauge built by the North-west Coal and Navigation Company, now the Alberta Railway and Coal Company, the president of which is Sir A. T. Galt. An extension of this line goes south from Lethbridge to Great Falls, in Montana. This last mentioned branch is owned by the Great Falls and Canadian Railway Company, and its trains are mixed, carrying both passengers and freight. Leaving Dunmore at 7 o'clock in the evening, we arrived at Lethbridge at 2 o'clock the next morning, but as I had taken a sleeping berth, I remained there until a more reasonable hour. The country along this line is somewhat bleak, and only inhabited by a very few settlers.

The railway was constructed for the carrying of coal from the Lethbridge district to Dunmore, whence it could be borne along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Lethbridge has a population of over 2,000, is a town of considerable importance, and contains some good stone buildings. In the centre of the town a square is reserved as a public park, and fenced in and well planted with trees, adding greatly to the pleasant appearance of the place. All

round Lethbridge, except on the river flats, the land is arid. The Mormons have bought 800,000 acres of land forty miles to the south, and have established a prosperous settlement. They are a very good class of settlers, being a steady and industrious people. There are already over 500 in the colony, which is growing rapidly, and this year they marketed 25,000 lbs. of wool. They are well satisfied with their condition; and they intend to irrigate their lands on the same system that they adopted in Utah. Seventy miles to the west of Lethbridge, in the Kootenay region, petroleum is being sunk for, it having been seen in large quantities on the surface. Over 300 applications have been made to the Government for claims during the last year and a half. The North-west Coal and Navigation Company are the largest employers of labour between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains. They employ from 600 to 800 men in the mines. The coal found at Lethbridge is of a bituminous nature, and is one of the best in the country for domestic and steam purposes. It can be seen all along the banks of the rivers. Tunnels are run in from the river banks, and shafts are also sunk from the surface to get the best coal. The company are putting out from 2,000 to 3,000 tons a week.

An irrigation company has got a charter to take an irrigation ditch through from the St. Mary's River and the Milk River to Lethbridge and Grassy Lake, which, it is calculated, will irrigate 2,000,000 acres of land. The cost of this ditch will be large, but the benefit that will be derived from it will be immense, as in the meantime the land is only fit for grazing and not too good for that, the grass being somewhat scarce. Where irrigation has been tried in British Columbia and in the States on similar land in similar climate, great success has been achieved, and large crops of corn, timothy, rye-grass, &c., have been grown, which come to maturity much quicker than on other lands.

A CATTLE "ROUND UP."

While at Lethbridge I heard that a cattle "round up" which had met at Bow River on the 9th of June, was out in the direction of Fort Kip. I was anxious to witness it, and procured a mount from a livery stable at \$3 a day. As several of the cowboys were just starting for the "round up," I rode out with them. We got up with the cattle about 14 miles out. A "round up" is made by

REPORT OF MR. P. R. RITCHIE.

men from all the ranches in the district, each ranch sending men in proportionate numbers to the cattle owned. Every man has with him from six to eight horses, as they have to change their mounts several times a day when they have long journeys. There is a waggon and team for every eight or ten men, which carries the provisions, cooking utensils, bedding, etc. Before a start is made a captain is chosen by the men, who plans out the day's work, and appoints the camping ground for each night. In this "round up" there were thirty-eight men, one four-horse waggon, and three drawn by single teams; also three bands of horses, with about 100 in each. They were rounding up a district of about 100 square miles, to do which would take six or seven weeks. They began from the south and were to finish in the north at High River. As they went along they "cut out" the stock belonging to the southern ranches, and took those belonging to the northern ranches along with them. There were over 2,000 in the herd when I reached them; of all breeds and ages. The cowboys were then "cutting out" those bearing the southern brands, and letting them fall back. The skill a trained horse acquires for this work is astonishing. They seem to know exactly what is wanted, and whenever the animal turns, the horse turns too. After the "cutting out" was finished, I rode on with them about 8 miles to the spot selected for the night's camp, the horses and waggons going on in front and the cattle being driven behind. The men camped in three separate lots, with a band of horses round each camp, conveniently near for being caught when wanted. After dinner, to which I was cordially invited, the watch for the night was set, three men being appointed to look after the cattle, and one for each band of horses. It was ten at night before I got back to Lethbridge.

THE GREAT FALLS AND CANADIAN RAILWAY.

The Superintendent of the Great Falls and Canadian Railway Company, Mr. Barclay, invited me to go down with him to Great Falls in his private car. There had been great floods down in Montana, and he was going to superintend the repairing of parts of the line and some bridges which had been washed out. The average rainfall for the year there is 12 inches, and in twenty-four hours there had been a fall of $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The Missouri River which is 200 yards wide at Great Falls had never been known so

high before. The country from Lethbridge to Great Falls is much the same as that between Dunmore and Lethbridge. Near the boundary the country becomes more mountainous, and within 30 miles of Great Falls, the grass began to be very scarce, prairie dogs having eaten it nearly all off. Prairie dogs are about three times the size of a gopher, and are much more destructive; they throw up mounds of earth all round, eat up the grass, and when they have finished the district they migrate to another. Great Falls is a good specimen of an American western town. Mining is its principal industry, and there are also large smelting works in the district.

SHEEP FARMING.

I stayed off for three days at Swift Current. Here is situated the sheep farm of the Canadian Agricultural Coal and Colonization Company. Mr. Rutherford, its manager, is admitted to be the best authority on sheep in the North-west. He is originally from Roxburghshire, Scotland, and had also farmed in Yorkshire, England. He has had eight years of experience with sheep in the North-west, having previously managed a flock at the Cochrane ranch in Alberta. On this farm there are 19,000 sheep and 8,000 lambs, divided into flocks of 2,000 each. One shepherd attends each flock in the summer, and in the winter gets a man to assist him. Fifty tons of hay for every 1,000 sheep is all that is put up every season, and it is very seldom all used, but it has to be ready in case of a severe winter. This hay is put up by contract, costing on an average \$3 a ton. The flock of sheep was brought from Montana in 1890—Mexico ewes, crossed with Cheviot, Leicester, Shropshire and Merino rams. The Cheviot cross has proved the most successful. The Leicester cross makes a large sheep, but it is not so hardy as the Cheviot, and does not stand the winter as well. A healthier lot of sheep than this flock I never saw. Amongst the 19,000 I do not think there were fifty lame. What lameness there was had been caused by cactus bushes, or the sharp stubs of the burnt prairie. Foot-rot is not known; and maggots, which make our greatest plague during the summer in England and Scotland seldom occur here, owing to the dryness of the climate. A few instances have been known in which sheep have been poisoned by a wild herb, which grows on the banks of some of the alkali lakes.

Eighteen men were busy shearing when I visited the farm. They were paid 8 cents (4d.) a head, and experienced hands were shearing 140 a day. One of them, whom I timed, caught his sheep, sheared it, and tied up the wool in four minutes' time. The wool is pressed by horse-power into bales, which weigh from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 cwt. apiece. This company had sixty tons of wool last year. Its price varies from 12 to 14 cents a pound. Wool alone, with careful management, will pay the working expenses of a flock of sheep. The price of mutton put on rail at Swift Current is 11 cents per pound. At Winnipeg and Vancouver during the spring, mutton was fetching 14 cents. Good shepherds are paid \$30 a month with board. The dipping apparatus used on this farm will dip 1,000 sheep an hour. The prairie grasses are very deceptive to one newly arrived in the country. A blue grass which grows there, and is considered the most nutritious for sheep, is not unlike our water-grass in Britain, which we think of little value.

REGINA TO PRINCE ALBERT.

My next point was Prince Albert, for which I left Regina at 8 in the evening. The weather was particularly favourable for a fine view of the country. The railway, which is 247 miles long, was opened in the fall of 1890. The first twenty miles is over the Regina plain. At Lumsden, which is the name of the first station, the country becomes broken with steep ravines, covered with small brush, but a few miles from Lumsden on either side there is a fine wheat-growing country, to which the output from this station testifies, there having been shipped thence last year 60,000 bushels of excellent wheat. At Saskatoon we stopped for half an hour. The railway station is on the opposite side of the river to the town, which is situated on rising ground on the south side. Round Saskatoon mixed farming is carried on, and there are also some large stock ranches in the district. Prince Albert is the principal town and capital of Saskatchewan, and is situated on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River. The North and South Saskatchewan Rivers, which have their source in the Rocky Mountains, run parallel with each other for a distance of eighty miles, from twenty to thirty miles apart, and join twenty-four miles east of Prince Albert. Between these two rivers the country is well settled. Settlement began here fifteen years ago, long before railways were dreamed of in the country.

THE PRINCE ALBERT SETTLEMENT.

Prince Albert itself is a very old settlement, a mission having been formed here many years ago. To-day it has three lumber mills, two flour mills, and thirty stores. The town is well lighted by electricity, and there is a system of telephones all over it. Mr. McKay, member of the Local Parliament, the Legislative Assembly of the North-west Territories, drove me out to his farm, a distance of twelve miles. On the way out we called on several farmers who had from 100 to 150 acres of crop each. They were all well-satisfied with their locations. Several of them had been farming there for fifteen years and had no wish to change. The general system of farming here is to have half the crop in wheat, and the other half in oats and barley. They are beginning to recognize the value of fallowing, and most of them will do so after every second crop. From two to three thousand acres of new land were ploughed up this season.

Cattle are housed from the beginning of December to the end of March, the oats and barley grown being used for feeding purposes. Hay is plentiful all over the district, and can be put up at a cost of about one dollar a ton. The country between the two rivers is dotted all over with patches of small timber and bush, and there are numerous small lakes of from one to five acres in area.

Mr. McKay's farm comprises over 1,000 acres, of which 660 are cultivated, 360 in wheat, 200 in oats and 100 in barley. He intended fallowing 100 acres this year, and breaking a hundred more. The farm house is a large two-story building, and the barn, stable, cow-house and granary are all substantial and well finished buildings. Limestone is plentiful in the neighbourhood, and Mr. McKay burns his own lime for building purposes. He has 260 head of cattle and 65 horses on the farm.

The next farm to Mr. McKay's is owned by a gentleman resident in Ontario. In May, 1891, a little over a year from the time of my visit, he sent up to the farm two men and a boy, and the amount of work they have done is astonishing. A whole section, 640 acres, is fenced in with good tamarack posts and four strands of wire. The tamarack posts are 15 feet apart, and they had to draw them nine miles. There were 80 acres in crop, and 50 more broken. They had also built a house, barn and stables, sunk a well, and made

many other improvements to the place. From the top of the Red Deer Hill, on the side of which these two farms are situated, a splendid view of the surrounding country can be obtained, and settlers' homesteads can be seen in every direction for miles around. On my return to Prince Albert, Mr. Fish, one of the leading merchants of the town, drove me out to Mr. James McArthur's sheep farm. Here there were 2,700 sheep and lambs. The original flock was imported from Montana in 1884. Disease is not known amongst sheep here, the death rate being under 3 per cent. They are housed from December to April, and the amount of hay put up for winter feed averages 300 tons to 1,000 sheep. Mr. McArthur reckons that he can feed quite as cheaply in winter as in summer. The best time for lambing is the first fortnight in May. Shearing commences in the middle of June, and the clip averages from 5½ to 6 lbs. a sheep. Another flock five miles from Mr. McArthur's is that belonging to Mr. P. Fraser. He started as a shepherd for Mr. McArthur a few years ago, without a penny to his name, and has now a flock of 800 sheep, several horses and cattle, and a nice homestead. By industry and economy he is rapidly acquiring a snug fortune. In the neighbourhood of Prince Albert there are many men like him. The mayor of the town, Mr. Donaldson, told me himself that he commenced business in 1879 \$7 in debt. At the present time he has a large livery stable full of horses, a well-furnished house, and owns town property to the value of \$10,000.

In addition to the existing railway, the Regina, Long Lake and Prince Albert, the Manitoba and North-western Railway is expected to reach Prince Albert in a short time, but what the people of the district are looking forward to most is the opening of the Hudson's Bay route. Prince Albert is now the nearest point to the Bay reached by rail by several hundred miles. Over a hundred farmers have come into this district from the United States this year, and have taken up homesteads—principally men from Dakota, who have migrated thence on account of the successive droughts.

REGINA, THE CAPITAL OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Returning from Prince Albert on July the 1st, I spent several days in the Regina district. Regina is the capital of the North-west Territories, and has a population of 2,500. The Legislative Assem-

bly of the North-west Territories, composed of the Provisional Districts of Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Athabasca, sits here. Two miles west of the town are the headquarters of the North-west Mounted Police and the Lieutenant-Governor's residence, situated on the Wascana River. The Mounted Police hold a similar position in the North-west Territories to our policemen at home. They number about 1,000 strong, and are stationed at points all over the Territories. The barracks at Regina form quite a little village. Colonel Herchmer, the commanding officer, took me through the riding school and the stables. The horses are bought principally in Alberta, at prices ranging from 100 to 150 dollars. They have not a very commendable appearance, but are wonderfully hardy and capable to travel very long distances.

The country which surrounds Regina for about twenty miles is known as the Regina plain, and, I believe, has the best soil in Canada for growing wheat in a favourable season. It is a heavy clay loam of an average depth of two feet, but much deeper in places; where I saw men digging the sewage drain in the town, it was fourteen feet deep. In wet weather the soil is very sticky and inclined to cake on the surface. Land for homesteading is all taken up for fifteen miles round the town, but Canadian Pacific Railway and syndicate land can still be bought at from four to seven dollars an acre. Amongst the many successful farmers that I visited in this district was Mr. Candy, who lives six miles north of Regina and went there from Ontario in 1882. He had 100 acres in wheat and 26 in oats this season. Oats which he sowed last year as late as the 8th of June threshed out 65 bushels to the acre, and weighed 48 lbs. a bushel. His average crop of wheat, for the last ten years, has been from 25 to 30 bushels an acre. Mr. Purdy, of the Maple Vale Farm, commenced farming in 1886 with \$300, and to-day would not sell out for \$8,000. Last year he threshed 2,527 bushels of wheat off 70 acres, 600 bushels of oats off 9 acres, and 100 bushels of barley off two acres. He does all the ploughing and sowing on the farm himself, and for harvest gets one man to assist him. He was ploughing a fallow field when I saw him, off which he had taken four crops in succession without ploughing, the stubble having just been burned off and the seed harrowed in. The last crop yielded 37 bushels per acre. About half his crop this year was put in without ploughing. Mr. Purdy has two brothers in

the neighbourhood who have been equally successful. Mr. Callum and his two sons have 400 acres in crop; last year they threshed 11,000 bushels. The two Brown brothers have 450 acres cropped this year. They own also two hundred cattle on a ranch 15 miles to the north by Long Lake. These cattle had been out all the winter, and of the number only three had been lost. Mr. Kelly commenced farming in 1883 without any capital. Last year he threshed 5,000 bushels of wheat from 125 acres, and sold it at an average price of 68 cents a bushel.

Crops in this district looked very backward this year owing to the unusually late spring. They had been sown late, the heavy soil retaining the moisture for some time, and preventing work on the land. All the farmers I visited in this district had about half their acreage sown on the stubble without ploughing. At several farms I saw threshing in progress. Some of the wheat was in a damp condition owing to the stacks being badly built and unthatched.

QU'APPELLE.

Qu'Appelle was my next stopping place; the town is pleasantly situated amidst small bluffs of light timber. Two miles west of Qu'Appelle is St. John's College, governed by the Bishop of the diocese. Here pupils are taught farming, the premium charged being from £50 to £100 a year. At the farm connected with the college, stock of every description are kept. Four miles west of the college is the Edgeley estate of 14,000 acres, owned by Sykes Brothers, of Stockport. The estate was bought from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in 1883. The intention was to plough and improve every section, and sell to incoming settlers. This land can be bought at from \$5 to \$8 an acre. On the home farm, there are 1,400 acres ploughed, 700 of which were in crop. Six thousand bushels of oats, weighing 45 lbs. to the bushel, were last year exported to England, and realized 26s. per quarter. The farm buildings and manager's house are fine and commodious. Mr. W. Cameron, the manager, with whom I stayed a night, is from Invernesshire, Scotland. The next morning he drove me to Fort Qu'Appelle, a distance of eighteen miles. The fort is situated on the Fishing Lakes, the vicinity of which is one of the prettiest in the North-west. The Fishing Lakes are six in number, and extend along the Qu'Appelle valley for twenty miles.

From Fort Qu'Appelle, Mr. Macdonald, the Hudson's Bay factor, drove me to the Indian school of the Roman Catholic Mission. In this school there are 200 Indian children, varying in age from ten to eighteen years. In connection with the school there are blacksmiths', carpenters' and shoemakers' shops, at which the boys are taught a trade. The girls are taught sewing, knitting and other household work; many of them after leaving school being hired out as domestic servants. One thing in which the children showed general excellence in comparison with Europeans was writing. At the Mission I saw the effects of a severe hailstorm, which had passed over the country a week previously, embracing an area of twelve miles long and six wide. The garden, which had been the pride of Father Lacombe, was ruined, and the glass of the conservatory smashed to atoms. This, however, was the only instance of damage done by hail that I came across or heard of during the season. The district of Qu'Appelle is well suited for mixed farming, and the country is well provided with bluffs of timber, which afford shelter for stock from the flies in the summer and the cold in winter. Two successful farmers in this district are Mr. J. H. Fraser and Mr. James Smith, who both came into the country ten years ago without a penny, and to-day are worth from \$15,000 to \$20,000 apiece.

INDIAN HEAD.

From Qu'Appelle Mr. Redpath, one of the solicitors of the town, drove me across country to Indian Head, where I visited the Government experimental farm and the Brassey and Bell farms, for the second time. At the experimental farm windstorms had interfered very much with the experiments. The soil is so fine that it is blown all over the place, uncovering the seed in some instances, and in others mixing them with those on neighbouring plots. This drawback Mr. Angus McKay, the manager, soon expects to conquer, as the belts of young trees which have been planted and sown round the farm are growing rapidly, and in two or three years will afford complete shelter. The growing of these belts of timber throughout the prairie cannot be too much encouraged. Besides taking away the bleak appearance of some parts, they will help materially to equalize the climate. From the Brandon experimental farm this spring 50,000 young trees were distributed to farmers throughout the country in lots of 100.

Lord Brassey is the owner of a large tract of land round Indian Head. This estate was bought from the Bell Farming Company when it dissolved. It has been divided into four separate farms of 2,500 acres each, and farmed by four different companies with separate corporations. Lord Brassey's object is that these companies, who have considerable capital, should provide employment for labourers coming into the country. On the Canadian Alliance Company's farm, over which I went, there were 1,000 acres of wheat, 200 of oats, and 100 of barley, in cultivation. The buildings, which were just being completed, consist of a 24-stall stable with large lofts and granaries, and a house for the manager and men. They have a stock of splendid Clyde mares and a well-bred stud horse. This year they were breaking 1,000 acres more. It is intended that the other three farms shall be worked on the same scale.

It was much against Major Bell's wish that the Bell Farm broke up when it did. He was anxious that the company should keep on for another year, and had they done so, the famous Bell Farm, once the largest in the world, would probably have been in existence in its integrity to-day. When the company sold out, the Major, who had confidence in the North-west, bought up the buildings and some thousands of acres of the land. Ever since he has been reaping a good return. This year he had 2,000 acres in crop—1,500 in wheat and 500 in oats. His lot of thirty Clyde mares were the best I saw in the Territories.

WHITEWOOD.

I stopped off at Whitewood next, and drove thence to Mr. F. Cosgrave's of the Burrow House Farm, five miles east of the town. Mr. Cosgrave came over from County Kildare, Ireland, where at one time he had farmed extensively. He is a man of over sixty years of age, and has been in the country eight years. He took one trip to Ireland, but was glad to come back again to the North-west.

MOOSOMIN.

Round Moosomin there are some of the finest farm buildings in the North-west. I was greatly obliged to Mr. McNaughton, the mayor of the town, for taking me round the country here. At

his father-in-law's, Mr. Crisp's, I spent an enjoyable afternoon. Mr. Crisp came here from Ontario eight years ago with very little money. He has just finished building a large stone house, and a good stable and barn. The stone of which the house and stable are built is gathered from the prairie; the lime he also burns himself. Any farmer in either England or Scotland would be proud to own the buildings, especially if he had built them himself. Mr. Crisp does not believe in breaking more land than he can handle well, and what he does, he likes to do thoroughly. His crops were the best in the district, proving that good farming pays.

Sheep farming is carried on extensively in this district. Several farmers who own small flocks combine together during the summer, and pay one shepherd to herd the lot. During the winter the sheep are housed and fed. Some of the farmers in the Moosomin district started a hunt club last year. Besides destroying the coyotes (wolves) and foxes, which are a pest on the sheep, the club encourages the breeding and training of a better class of horses. Many an enjoyable run they have, sometimes lasting as long as an hour and twenty-five minutes.

VIRDEN.

In Mr. W. Stevens at the Gopher Creek Farm at Virden, you meet one of the old style of Scotch farmers. Mr. Stevens came to Manitoba eight years ago, and continued farming on the same system as he pursued in Scotland. He sows down his land to pasture for two years, and manures as much as he can, which, he finds, pays him, for on land that is dunged he gets an earlier crop by several days. The grass which he sows down for hay and pasture does well. He would advise any Old Country farmer who is not satisfied with his condition to come out to Manitoba. For the same price that he could rent and stock his farm in England or Scotland, he could become his own landlord in Manitoba, build a good house and farm buildings and stock his farm well. He could afford to keep three teams of horses, and, if he attended to his business and avoided extravagance, would be certain to make money. Wheat which was grown in this district by Mr. Macdonald, of Laggan Farm, five miles from Virden, obtained the gold medal at the Millers' Exhibition in London for the best sample of wheat, the competition being open to the world. It was Red Fyfe, weigh-

ing 66 lbs. to the bushel, grown as the third crop after breaking, sown at the end of April and reaped the end of August, and yielded 33 bushels to the acre. About half a mile from the town of Virden, is Boss Hill Farm, the property of Messrs. Bouverie and Routledge. They have 450 acres in crop, and 150 brood mares.

Leaving Brandon on the 13th of July, I took the train down the Souris Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The railway strikes off from the main line at Kemnay, 8 miles from Brandon, and takes a south-westerly course through Manitoba into Assiniboia, the terminus being Estevan, 180 miles from Brandon. The two principal towns along the line are Souris and Melita. The country through which the line runs contains some of the best, if not the best, wheat-growing land in Manitoba. Large fields of wheat can be seen on each side of the line as far as the eye can reach. Some of the wheat was then well out in the ear, and in other fields just bursting. Land down this line, which was bought a year ago for \$3 an acre, is now being held at from \$10 to \$15. At Carievale I saw twenty-six teams belonging to Mr. W. Sandison, of Brandon. Mr. Sandison has broken over 2,000 acres of land here, which he intends for wheat next year. This land he bought from the Canadian Pacific Railway in the fall of last year. He told me that a fortnight previous to my visit he had been offered \$15 an acre cash for the land that was backset. The breaking and back-setting together cost him \$5 an acre. On one of his sections he has built wood stables and a house at a cost of \$2,500.

THE SOURIS BRANCH OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY AND THE
NEWLY OPENED UP COUNTRY IN SOUTH-EASTERN ASSINIBOIA.

All along this line new towns are rapidly springing up. At Oxbow, where I left the cars, there was not a house five months previously; now there are over a hundred. Major Phipps, the Government land agent who is stationed here, informed me that during the month of June he had taken entries for homesteading up to 15,192 acres, irrespective of colonies, which would mean about as much more land. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company during the same month sold over 6,000 acres at an average price of \$3 an acre, all in the Oxbow district. From Oxbow I drove to Hirsch, a distance of 24 miles. Here Baron Hirsch has settled a colony of eighty Jews. Twenty thousand dollars is to be expended on them,

and, if the present colonists prove successful, many more will be sent. It is expected that this money will provide each man with a team of horses or oxen, a waggon, plough and harrows, and keep them in food for eighteen months, till they get a return from their crops. At present they have twenty teams of oxen, and eight of horses, and each man has taken up a homestead, on which a small house is being built. Many of them are good workers. The colony was started in April this year. At the time of my visit they had 40 acres broken, ten acres sown in oats, and a few acres of potatoes planted.

THE SOURIS COAL-FIELDS.

At Estevan are situated the Souris coal-fields. Coal can be seen standing out in the coulees and banks of the Souris River, similarly to that at Lethbridge and Edmonton. The working of the seam has just been commenced, and it is expected that this coal will be delivered in Winnipeg during the coming winter at \$4 a ton. It is not really a coal proper, but lignite of a superior character, and while it has its drawbacks, it certainly solves the fuel problem for farmers in that district.

BRANDON DISTRICT.

On my return to Brandon, I spent five days, from the 17th to the 21st of July, in its neighbourhood. Brandon is the largest and most important town between Winnipeg and Vancouver. It is nicely situated on the side of a hill, and this year there are more new buildings going up than in any previous year. Its present population is over 5,000. A lumber mill, about a quarter of a mile from my hotel, I heard going night and day. I drove out to Mr. Hearn's farm, 13 miles south of Brandon. He is a son of the late rector of Roxwell, Essex, the parish in which I have farmed for the last six years. He was glad to see me and hear about the people of Roxwell, from several of whom I bore messages to him. He came out eight years ago as a farm pupil, and afterwards started for himself, calling his farm Roxwell. Mr. Hearn has 320 acres of land, and last year bought another quarter-section, which he purchased for \$10.75 per acre. It was school land, and sold by auction. 135-acres of his land were in wheat, 35 in oats, and 10 in barley. He had about twenty head of stock, several of them pure bred.

THE BRANDON AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

At the Brandon Agricultural Exhibition on the 19th and 20th July, I was asked by the directors of the society to act as judge for the heavy class horses, in conjunction with two other gentlemen. The classes which came before us were Clydesdales, Shires, Percherons and Suffolks. Suffolks, Clydesdales and Shires were well represented, many of them being imported horses. The Percheron horse is of French breed, not as heavy as the Clyde and Shire. Prizes were given for the best four of any one family, the best walking team, and for the best turned out team in harness, in addition to the usual prizes. There was a large exhibition of light horses—cattle, sheep and pigs also making a good show. In the buildings in the centre of the fair ground were exhibits of grain and agricultural produce, and another building was devoted to poultry. Round Brandon almost all the land is under cultivation, and after that of Portage la Prairie it is considered the best wheat-growing country in Manitoba. Very few farms can be bought under \$15 an acre, and some have been sold as high as \$30 an acre.

BRANDON EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

The Brandon experimental farm is about two miles from the town of Brandon. It contains a section of 640 acres of mixed land, part of it being on the hill-side, and part in the valley of the Assiniboine River. In so extensive a province as Manitoba, soils of different qualities are to be met with, and here happily the farm answers the requirements of almost all of them. The principal farm building is a bank barn, 100 feet long by 30 wide, in which there is a silo, a root cellar, and all the modern improvements that a farm requires. A number of pure bred Short-horns, Galloways, Ayrshires, Holsteins and grade cattle are kept. Experiments are made of the different methods of feeding both with the cattle and pigs. Over two hundred varieties of wheat alone were being tested this year, besides about as many of oats, barley, rye, Indian corn, &c. Every endeavour is being made to obtain a wheat equal in quality to Red Fyfe, which will ripen earlier. Many earlier varieties have been obtained, but they do not come up to the standard of Red Fyfe. Fodder corn was grown here last year, twenty-five tons to the acre. The tests being made as to the best grasses, both native

and foreign, suitable for sowing down throughout the country, is, perhaps, the most important subject dealt with on the farm. The forestry department receives a lot of attention, and its work has already been dwelt on in this pamphlet. The amount of good that these experimental farms are doing is incalculable. Not only at the present time, but in years to come, the results obtained from them will be observed and appreciated. At the time of my arrival, Mr. Bedford, the manager, was showing eight farmers round, and while I was there several more came. These men had come long distances from various parts of the country, an evidence of the appreciation and popularity of the work. The son of Professor Saunders was busy hybridizing wheat, which is a very difficult and intricate operation. About a hundred heads can be hybridized by an experienced hand in a day, but Mr. Saunders told me only about twenty per cent of these would germinate successfully.

THE SANDISON FARM.

In the afternoon of the same day Mr. Sandison sent in his trap for me. His enormous farm is about eight miles from the town. Nine years ago Mr. Sandison was working on a farm at Carberry, but, by dint of hard work and judicious speculation is to-day the largest wheat-grower in Canada. He commenced for himself on a small scale, and gradually added to his land by purchase or rental, till to-day he farms over 6,000 acres. He is now building a stone house of granite off the prairie, which will cost \$8,000, and has laid out two acres around the building with young trees, which are doing well. This year Mr. Sandison had 3,000 acres in crop, 2,500 in wheat and 500 in oats. His fields are all of a section each, a mile square, the furrows a mile long. His stables, which accommodate 64 horses, have a coating of 3 feet of turf outside and a turf roof, which keeps the building cool in summer and warm in winter. The granary is also an excellent building.

CARBERRY.

On Friday, the 22nd of July, I left Brandon for Carberry, where there are three elevators. The district round is good for wheat-growing, but has been more subject to frost than other parts of Manitoba. From Carberry I went on to Portage la Prairie, where I stopped over night, and went on to Winnipeg the next morning.

WINNIPEG, THE CAPITAL OF MANITOBA.

Winnipeg is the principal city of Manitoba, and has a population of about 30,000, which is every year rapidly increasing. Many people of reliable authority, whom I have met, say they will be surprised if it does not increase to 100,000 in another ten years. Eleven different railway lines run into this city. The main street of the city is one of the finest in America, being 132 feet wide ; but all this space is required for the continuous stream of traffic along it. There are both electric and horse street-cars.

THE WINNIPEG EXHIBITION.

The Winnipeg Exhibition, which is an annual institution, was this year held from the 25th to the 29th of July. This was a departure from the previous rule, by which the exhibitions were held in September. The change of time was for the better, as the attendance of people was much larger and the exhibition a greater success than in any previous year. All the hotels in Winnipeg, which are many and large, were crowded during exhibition week, and many people could not obtain accommodation. The exhibition buildings are situated about a mile and a half from town, and are reached either by train or by the electric car. All the industries and agricultural stock of the country were well represented. The amount given in prizes was \$15,000. There were horses and cattle shown ; some of them had been prize-winners in British show-yards. Heavy class horses in particular were a very good lot. Putting aside the four largest agricultural exhibitions held in Britain, the exhibition would compare with any.

THE PORTAGE PLAINS.

Before leaving Winnipeg to travel up the Manitoba and North-western line, I was fortunate enough to meet Mr. R. T. Riley, who is secretary and treasurer of the Westbourne Cattle Company, and also a shareholder. The president and chief shareholder is Senator Sanford, of Hamilton, Ont. The Sanford Ranch is situated at Westbourne, 18 miles north-west of Portage la Prairie. Leaving the train at Portage, we drove thence to Westbourne in company with Senator Freeman Talbot, of Minnesota. Our conveyance was a covered buggy with two horses. The drive takes one across

the Portage Plains, famous for their wheat. The plains are 20 miles square, and are bounded on the north by Lake Manitoba and on the south by the Assiniboine River. In all this stretch of country there is but one section uncultivated. On all sides we saw splendid fields of wheat. Senator Talbot, who was very familiar with Ontario and many of the Southern States, declared he had never seen such good crops before. On several farms we found the owners engaged in fallowing. The fallow was being ploughed for the first time, and the weeds would be over two feet high. One would think that it was almost impossible to plough them under, but a chain is extended from the breast of the plough forward, which lays them flat, and the furrow covers them completely. These weeds act as a manure. Fallows are ploughed but once and harrowed twice, or oftener if necessary. Fallowing is seldom resorted to until eight or ten crops have been taken off, and in several instances I heard of over twenty crops having been taken off the land in succession without fallowing or manuring.

THE SANFORD RANCH.

We arrived at the Sanford Ranch at noon. The buildings are five minutes' walk from the railway station at Westbourne. The stables, which are well built of wood, will accommodate about two hundred horses, and the cattle sheds about the same number of cattle. About five miles west of this there is another ranch with buildings of the same dimensions. The stock are put under cover during the winter and fed on hay and oats; also during the summer, when the flies are troublesome, they are brought into the yards at night, and smudge fires are kindled to keep the mosquitoes off. The Westbourne Cattle Company every spring hold an annual sale of horses. The prices realized at the last sale averaged \$300 a team. The horses bred are from light Ontario mares, crossed with a French horse. This cross produces a class of horse weighing about 1,400 lbs., very suitable for the country. The cattle are pure bred Herefords and Polled Angus. After lunch we drove out five miles to where haying was going on, by the edge of Lake Manitoba, which is the best hay country in Manitoba. The hay is about three feet long, and will cut from two and a half to three tons per acre. Haying is pursued in a very systematic manner. A ricker is used at the stacks, and to this machine the hay is brought in with

sweeps. Two men with one horse work the ricker, and one man with two horses each of the sweeps. Waggon and horse rakes are not used, and the only handforks required are by the two men building the stacks. Each stack has about fifteen tons, and is built in the centre of the five acres to be swept to it. The sweeps which are 16 feet wide, bring about 400 pounds of hay each and deposit it upon the sparred platform of the ricker, 14 feet wide, which is flat on the ground. This is immediately lifted in a circular form and dropped on the stack. For putting up a large quantity of hay, this is the fastest method possible. The rickers and three sweeps are very simple machines, made mostly of wood, the cost of the lot being only \$250, or £50. Two mowing machines are kept going constantly. Some years this company put up as much as 3,000 tons. The nine men and eleven horses employed will put up as much as 40 tons of hay, at a cost of about \$1 a ton. Senator Sanford owns over 80,000 acres of land throughout Manitoba. In the district of Westbourne he acquired a large tract of land from the Government for digging a drain seven miles long.

OTHER FARMS IN THE WESTBOURNE AND GLADSTONE REGION.

From the Sanford ranch I drove out with Mr. Walter Lynch to see his stock farm. Mr. Lynch, who came from Ontario twenty years ago, breeds pure bred Short-horns and has made a name for himself throughout Manitoba and indeed Canada. He advertises in the farming papers, and has no difficulty in getting \$125 for his yearling bulls. His Short-horns are mostly descendants of the famous Bates blood; at the Winnipeg Exhibition he took a number of prizes with them. Mr. Lynch has 120 acres under crop. One field of barley from which he took 60 bushels an acre last year looked like yielding as much this year. This field he had cropped every year since he came to the country. Next his farm, an Indian named Baptiste Roulette has 160 acres fenced in, 40 of which are under cultivation. This is the largest acreage I heard of being owned by one Indian. Mr. Lynch drove me out as far as Lake Manitoba, which is 90 miles long and 30 wide. On our way we saw a Mr. Cooke, who owns a creamery, putting up hay. His manner of haying is thus: the hay after being cut and won is raked into rows. Behind his waggon a hay loader is attached; three ropes are placed along the bottom of the waggon and are brought

up round it after it has been loaded. The two horses go along on each side of the row of hay, and the loader, which is worked on the same principle as an elevator, pick up the hay as they move on. By this means a load can be picked up as fast as two men can build it. At the stack a mast is erected with a boom such as is seen on the ships. To the end of the boom is attached a pulley wheel, through which a rope runs. The rope is attached to the three ropes round the load, which is pulled up by the two horses and swung on the stack. The time taken to load is three and a half minutes, and four minutes to unload. The next morning Mr. Riley and I intended driving to Gladstone, 18 miles N. W. of Westbourne on the Manitoba and North-western Railway, but as there had been a severe thunderstorm during the night with a lot of rain, Mr. Riley thought it would be advisable not to drive, as the roads would be muddy, which meant heavy pulling for one horse. However, we got a three-seated railway velocipede at the station, and worked our way up the line on it. This was the most novel way of travelling I had yet experienced in the country. Between Westbourne and Gladstone there is good land, but very much broken with patches of timber. In several places these patches were being eradicated and farms being made. Round Gladstone there is a large amount of grain cultivated. Here I lost the pleasant company of Mr. Riley, and went by train to Neepawa.

NEEPAWA.

Neepawa (an Indian word meaning "Plenty") is prettily situated on the edge of a ravine. There were a number of new buildings going up in the town, and alongside the railway are seven elevators. Two cents per bushel is charged for cleaning grain and holding it for fifteen days, and half a cent a bushel is charged for holding it another fifteen days; this charge also includes loading it on the cars. On an average about 2 lbs. a bushel comes out of the wheat when dressed. Most of them have a 25-horse power engine; there is a special machine for dressing wheat for smut. The average capacity of an elevator is 70,000 bushels, and they have 46 bins holding from 700 to 3,000 bushels apiece. The seven elevators here prove the amount of grain grown in this district. Here I had Mr. Davidson, the local M.P.P., to thank for driving me and showing me the country. This district for twelve miles round is all

settled up, and the most of it is under cultivation. There is a lot of small scrub throughout, but this is rapidly disappearing. The farmers all seem to be doing well, and on many of the farms new buildings of stone and brick are being put up. Land in this district is valued at from \$20 to \$30 an acre. One section of school land, about one mile from the town, which was sold last year, realized \$30 an acre. The Riding Mountains stretch out 10 miles towards the north, and the country in its general aspect is rolling, the scenery being not unlike some parts of England and Scotland.

MINNEDOSA.

At Neepawa, I met the Rev. F. R. Hole, who invited me to drive with him to his farm, four miles south of Minnedosa. It proved one of the prettiest drives I had in Manitoba. Alongside the road, raspberries, cranberries and wild cherries grew in profusion, and there was a wealth of wild flowers, many of them being of kinds that are cultivated in England, such as convolvulus, tiger lilies, &c. The prairie is often carpeted with crocuses. Professor Kenaston, who has explored all over the North-west, says in an article in the August number of the "Century Illustrated," entitled, "The Great Plains of Canada": "Certain indigenous fruits are abundant and valuable: among which may be mentioned the common strawberry, which in places grow so thickly that the wheels of a cart in passing over the ground are speedily reddened and the tracks resemble stripes of blood on the grass, while the fruity fragrance fills the air." The wild fruits of the North-west when transplanted to the garden and cultivated, grow much larger than in their wild state. In several gardens round Minnedosa raspberries and currants were hanging in clusters on the bushes in greater richness than I ever saw them in England or Scotland.

The Rev. F. R. Hole and his three sons farm 2,000 acres, about 400 of which they have in crop, and they have over 100 head of cattle and 20 horses. Mr. Hole brings out young men,—gentlemen's sons,—from England, and places them with farmers throughout Manitoba. They pay a premium of £25 to the farmer, and Mr. Hole charges a commission of £5. Out of forty-five young men that he has brought out during the last three years from England, only two have left the country dissatisfied. Many of them have taken up farms for themselves, and others are still with

farmers. The question of young men paying premiums to farmers in this country I have often heard discussed. There is no doubt that many young men who are strong and willing to work are worth some recompense over and above their board, instead of paying premiums, but there are just as many of them who are of no use for a long time on a farm, and very often are dear at a premium of even £50 a year.

BINSCARTH.

Taking train at Minnedosa, my next halt was at Binscarth. Here Mr. H. G. Mullins, whom I had met before, sent to meet me. He has rented the Binscarth stock farm for a term of five years. This farm, which belongs to the Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company, contains one of the best stretches of country for stock-raising to be found in Canada. The original intention was to breed pure bred Short-horns for the supply of new settlers, so improving the stock of the country. The farm being on a branch line and the working expenses high, the returns proved unsatisfactory, and it was broken up in June, 1891. The splendid herd of eighty head were sold and scattered all over the country. Mr. Mullins is a large exporter of Canadian cattle. He ships principally to Fraser & Macdonald, cattle salesmen at Glasgow, who sell his animals on commission. He intends feeding two hundred head this winter. The buildings at Binscarth are specially fitted for this purpose. He will also buy throughout the neighbourhood. He is "well fixed," as they say in Canada, and is on the high road to make money. The morning following my arrival after seeing over the Binscarth farm, which is 2,000 acres in extent, Mr. Mullins drove me to Russell. A crop of 12 acres of turnips on his farm was looking remarkably well. On the way to Russell we saw several herds of cattle grazing on the prairie. These were all well bred, as indeed were all the cattle in this district, showing that the Binscarth herd had left its mark. From a farmer named Jolly, who was mowing hay, Mr. Mullins purchased two nice looking heifers at £7 apiece. They would weigh over 500 lbs. apiece dead. Such he lets run until September, when he makes his next shipment. The rate for freight of cattle from Binscarth to Montreal per carload (say, 19 cattle), minimum 20,000 lbs., is 85 cents per hundred pounds, or \$170 per car; and for a train load of 14 cars or more, 69 cents per

hundred pounds, or \$138 per car ; and the rate on cattle from Montreal to Glasgow is 45 shillings, or \$10.80 per head, without insurance.

THE BARNARDO HOME.

Of Dr. Barnardo's Home at Russell one could say very much. The two days I spent there were amongst the most enjoyable of my trip. The Home is situated four miles from Russell and is a branch of the Doctor's extensive institutions in London. It was founded four years ago, and under the able management of Mr. Struthers has proved even more successful than anticipated. The boys, after remaining on the farm long enough to get accustomed to the ways and work of farm life, are put out to farmers. As a rule they are very contented, and make good workers, but amongst such a lot it cannot but be expected that there are a few black sheep.

Eight thousand acres belong to the Home, 400 of which are under cultivation. Over 100 head of mixed stock are kept, a dairy stock of 70 cows and also a flock of about 200 sheep. The buildings are excellent, the creamery in particular, which is replete with all modern improvements. Milk is taken in here from the surrounding farmers, the price given being 70 cents per 100 lbs. This milk is put through the separator on arriving at the creamery, and the skim-milk is returned to the producer. On an average all the year round 100 lbs. of milk will produce 4 lbs. of butter. The average price of this butter is 24½ cents a pound. More milk can be taken at the creamery than at present received, and every inducement is held out to a farmer who would settle here and send his milk to the creamery.

SALTCOATS.

Taking the train at Binscarth again my next stop was at Saltcoats in Assiniboia. The crops here had suffered very much from drought, and in many instances would not be worth the cutting. Several farmers were ploughing theirs in. Gophers, which are always plentiful in a dry season, had also done a lot of damage. The Canada Settlers' Loan and Trust Company have brought a number of settlers into this district, many of whom commenced farming without any capital, the company advancing them money. Altogether the company have over 500 loans out here, averaging \$350

each. A mortgage is taken on stock, farm implements and furniture, and interest at the rate of 8 per cent is charged. The company making these loans advise that the money be invested in stock. The settlers are chiefly from Yorkshire, England, the Orkney Islands, and Dakota, but all nationalities are represented amongst them.

There is a large creamery at Saltcoats, which turns out over a thousand pounds of butter a week. Cream is gathered in from farmers in the surrounding country, and so much an inch is paid, according to the quality.

YORKTON.

From Saltcoats I went on to Yorkton, which is the terminus for the present of the Manitoba and North-western Railway. It was meant to extend this railway this year, but financial difficulties have prevented the company from doing so. Several colonies have settled west of here along the proposed line. I heard a good deal of grumbling among them, as they had taken up the land on the promise that the railway would be extended.

Mr. R. Semen, a capitalist of London, brought out a colony of Poles, and settled them 24 miles north-west of Yorkton. He has also himself taken up a section of land here. In return for paying their passage out and advancing them money to buy stock and provisions, they have to work for him at \$15 a month till the loan is paid off. Several of these Poles are dissatisfied, and talk of breaking the contract, although it seems to me to have been all in their favour.

MY OWN FARM AT MOUNT ROYAL.

In returning from my trip along the Manitoba and North-western Railway, I went out to Mr. Ronaldson's farm at Mount Royal, where my own little venture was concerned, and spent ten days assisting in the harvesting. Self-binders are drawn by three horses, and in some instances I saw them drawn by two oxen and one horse.

Binding twine costs 12 cents per pound, and an average crop of from 20 to 25 bushels per acre takes two pounds of twine to bind it.

Stooks are generally made the same as in England, but at several farms I saw the sheaves set up round each other in a circle and cap-

ped by two other sheaves. By the latter method it is claimed that the grain is not so much exposed to the sun, and gets fully matured after being cut. Stacks are made round or oblong, with from eight to ten loads in each, and good tops are put on, as stacks are never thatched, since the fall of the year is very dry, and threshing is usually done before the snow sets in. Threshing is often done on big farms from the stook, when enough men and teams can be got together. Many threshing machines weigh and record the number of bushels threshed.

Wheat is put up in two-bushel sacks, which is a much more convenient way of handling it than in the heavy four-bushel sacks used in Britain. On the cars it is carried in bulk. Traction and portable engines are used for threshing, and occasionally there is still to be found a ten or twelve horse-power gear. The fuel chiefly used for firing is straw. It has to be fed in small quantities, and demands one man's constant attention. Straw is but little valued, and is often burned as soon as the thresher leaves the field. My crop on the Patterson farm turned out better than I expected. Some of the wheat yielded quite 25 bushels an acre, and the oats 40 bushels an acre. Close to the farm buildings near the river, where the land had been cropped for many years, it was dirty and the yield much less. Wheat is not the only grain that can be grown in Manitoba with advantage. I saw many samples of barley, which was being used for feed, that would have brought a high price in the English market. A sample which I sent to England, grown by Mr. MacWatt of Glenlea, near Royal, that I might get a maltster's opinion of it, was highly thought of there. The following was my answer: "Barley worth 38s. per qr. (of 8 bushels), more, if it was better dressed. We have been buying foreign barley better dressed than your sample at 42s., but yours is the very class of barley required for malting purposes." This barley was being fed to cattle, and what was being sold made 40 cents (20d.) a bushel. Had there been a larger quantity, which could have been exported to England, it would have been one dollar and five cents a bushel. Farmers here have never tried to grow barley to any extent; but in my opinion it would be a more profitable crop than wheat, as it can be grown in a shorter period of time, often being sown in the beginning of June and harvested by the middle of August.

TREHERNE AND CARMAN.

Leaving Winnipeg again on the 1st of September I took a trip down the Glenboro' branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway. This line goes in a south-westerly direction from Winnipeg past Headingley, the French settlement of Fannystelle, and out to Treherne. From this line also another small branch line 12 miles long runs to Carman. Here we stopped for an hour and had dinner. To the south and west of Carman there is a fine wheat-growing country. At Treherne stooks were to be seen in every direction. Several binders were still at work, and a few farmers were already stacking. A number of farmers were down at the station to meet the train in search of men for the harvest fields. They were offering two dollars a day (8s. 4d.) and board. One man, with whom I had some conversation told me he would give two dollars and a half (10s. 4d.) a day for a good man. He had over 100 acres of grain lying cut, which he had done himself with a binder, and now only wanted a man to help him cart it.

GLENBORO'.

I spent two days at Glenboro' driving round the country. Two miles from here live the Messrs. Steele, whom I had met at the Winnipeg Exhibition. They came to Glenboro' ten years ago, and bought a section of land from the Canadian Pacific Railway. They have now several hundred acres under crop, and also rent some of their land to another farmer. They keep a nice lot of stock, their Ayrshires especially, with which they took the champion prizes at the Winnipeg Exhibition, being very good. The Glenboro' district has some of the earliest land in Manitoba, the soil being rather lighter than the average. At the station there are four elevators. I have already made some notes on the elevators of the country. During the wheat-buying season one man is employed at the elevator, and one man to buy the wheat. The cleaning machinery, which is driven by steam, is on the most improved modern system. One man, besides attending to the engine, can take in, weigh, clean, and put aside 4,000 bushels a day. Throughout Manitoba there are about 346 elevators, and the average cost of building one is \$12,000.

-THE WAWANESA DISTRICT.

From Glenboro' I took the train again to Methven, and thence drove across country to Wawanesa. Four miles south of the town is Mr. Leslie Smith's farm. Mr. Smith was one of my fellow judges at the Brandon show, and had invited me to go and stay with him. He left Aberdeenshire, Scotland, five years ago, on being hired to take out some pure bred stock to Ontario. He had a pass by which to return, but became convinced that he could get on much better in Canada, and accordingly remained. He worked in Ontario for two years, came to Manitoba in 1889, and rented the Painkeith Farm, which belongs to Mr. Williams, of Toronto, who owns four sections in the Wawanesa neighbourhood. Mr. Smith had this year 500 acres in crop, 400 of which were in wheat. Last year, 1891, he threshed out 9,600 bushels of wheat, which he sold at 75 cents a bushel. He also owns half a section of land adjoining, which he uses for his stock. It runs alongside the Tiger Hills, and there is plenty of shelter and fine spring water on it. This land he bought at \$10 an acre, but would not take \$20 an acre for it now. Other large farmers in the Wawanesa district are Mackenzie, Lyle, Routledge and Robertson. The last named came out from Haddingtonshire, Scotland, ten years ago, and homesteaded his present holding. Last year he went home and brought out three Clyde stallions. This year he intends going home for more, and will also bring a number of breeding pedigree mares with him. From the hill above Wawanesa four small but fast growing towns with elevators at each can be seen, namely, Methven, Stockton, Rounthwaite and Wawanesa.

Taking train at Wawanesa I went by the Northern Pacific to Brandon and thence by the Canadian Pacific Railway back to Winnipeg. At Brandon I again visited Mr. Sandison's farm. He was just finishing cutting, having had fifteen binders at work; this year he expects to thresh out 75,000 bushels of wheat. The favourite binder used throughout the country is that made by the Massey-Harris Company. I was informed by Mr. McBride, a member of the company, that they had sold over two thousand of these machines throughout Manitoba and the North-west Territories this year.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.

This pamphlet may be aptly concluded by a few general remarks and some final impressions concerning the country. The area of Manitoba is 116,021 square miles. The region known as the North-west Territories covers an area of 2,665,252 square miles. In 1882 part of this immense country was divided into four large territories: Alberta, 100,000, Assiniboia, 95,000, Saskatchewan, 114,000, and Athabasca, 122,000 square miles. This large tract of country is well-watered. The principal lakes are, Lake Winnipeg, 9,400 square miles, Lake Winnipegosis, 2,030 square miles, Lake Manitoba, 900 square miles, and the Lake of the Woods (Winnipeg's chief watering place, containing thousands of islands), 1,500 square miles.

A Provincial Legislature of 40 members for Manitoba sits at Winnipeg, and one for the North-west Territories at Regina. In the Dominion Parliament Manitoba is represented by three Senators and four members of the House of Commons, one of the latter, the Hon. Edgar Dewdney, being a member of the Dominion Government, with the portfolio of Minister of the Interior. The principal cities and towns are governed by a mayor and corporation in much the same manner as in England. The educational system of the country is very good. Public schools are to be met with all over the province. Education is free, the cost of maintenance being provided for partly by local taxation and partly by the revenue derived from lands set apart for this purpose by the Parliament of Canada, which are administered by the Department of the Interior of the Federal Government.

There are numerous agricultural societies all over the country, and at all towns of any importance 10 to 20 acres are fenced in for the purpose of holding exhibitions. These exhibitions have done good work by encouraging competition amongst the farmers, and by enabling them to come together and exchange ideas. In a new country the importance of this intercourse cannot be too much advocated.

The following is the estimated acreage under each crop and the average per acre in Manitoba (this report is received by the Government from over 400 different points throughout the province):—

	Acres.	Average yield, bushels per acre.	Total yield.
Wheat	875,990	22·07	19,333,097
Oats	332,974	43·16	14,371,157
Barley	97,644	32·19	3,143,160
Peas	2,188	23·00	50,324
Flax	1,718	17·05	29,291

There have been 143,919 acres freshly broken this year. The number of threshing machines in the province is 1,180. Autumn, or the fall as it is called in Canada, begins about the middle of September, and lasts till the end of November. This is the pleasantest time of the year, the weather being comfortably cool, and mosquitoes having retired from troubling man and beast. At the end of autumn, the Indian summer comes, lasting several days, and then winter sets in. The winter months are December, January, February and March. About Christmas and during January and February the temperature is sometimes as low as 40 degrees below zero, but this intense cold, if unaccompanied by wind, is not felt to be extreme, owing to the dry atmosphere of the North-west. Many people from the Old Country say they much prefer the dry winters of the North-west to the damp winters of Britain. Snow falls to an average depth of 15 inches. All sorts of amusements go on during the winter, such as dances, surprise parties, curling matches, skating and tobogganing. Curling is the great winter game of the country, every small town having its rink, most of them being covered in. At the curling bonspiel at Winnipeg last year, 136 rinks competed for prizes. The playing was carried on night and day, as there were not enough rinks to accommodate the players.

Spring sets in about the beginning of April. This is the farmer's busy season, for the good results of early seeding have been proved

over and over again. The summer months are May, June, July, August, and the beginning of September. The thermometer sometimes registers over 90 degrees in the shade, although I cannot say I ever felt it to be hotter than in England. The nights during the summer are cool, and only six nights during the whole summer did I feel inclined to sleep without a blanket. Thunderstorms occur frequently. During the six months I was in the country there were about twenty-five of them. They are very severe and last for several hours. It is from these storms that the country gets most of its moisture, there being no rainfall during the winter. The climate of Alberta varies very much from that of Manitoba. One of the causes of this difference is to be found in the warm "Chinook" winds which blow across the former country during winter. As soon as a thaw sets in, after winter, and the ground becomes sufficiently soft to allow harrowing to be worked, seeding operations are commenced. Seeding is done in several ways: by the press drill, the "gatling gun" seeder, the broadcast seeder, and, very rarely, by hand sowing. The press drills are much the same as those used in England, but a wheel follows each coulter, pressing in the seed. The broadcast seeder distributes the seed over the land, and behind a long tooth is fitted to the machine, which goes into the ground much like a harrow, covering the seed with the mould. The gatling machine is attached to a waggon drawn by two horses, the machinery being worked by the wheel of the waggon. This distributes the seed behind the waggon, a width of 33 feet being sown at a stretch, and an average of 70 acres is thus sown in a day, sometimes as much as 100 being done. It is difficult to pronounce which is the best method. Some parts of the country suit one way, some another, and it depends a great deal on the season. I would advise any new comer to study how the best and most successful farmers in the district he has adopted work their land, and let him do likewise. I have made a calculation as to the cost of growing and marketing an acre of wheat and the income therefrom, but it must be understood that some of my figures are drawn from contract prices, and in reality the work does not cost the farmer, who has his stock and implements, anything like these sums, after allowing interest for his money invested and good wages for his work. The following is my calculation:—

	£	s.	d.
Ploughing 1 acre.	8	0	
Seed, 2 bushels, at 50 cents.	4	0	
Sowing and harrowing.	3	6	
Cutting and twine.	4	2	
Stooking and stacking.	3	0	
Threshing.	3	6	
Drawing to elevator.	2	0	

£1 8 2

Produce of 1 acre, 22 bushels at 50 cents 2 4 0

Net balance. £ 15 10

No one can travel through the country without being impressed with its vastness, and if only one considers that this immense country had few European inhabitants previous to the incoming of the Canadian Pacific Railway, one cannot but be surprised at the amount of labour and the extensive improvements that have been accomplished. If so much has been done in the last decade, who can tell what the next may not bring forth, as the country is only now really beginning to be known? There is no doubt that there are drawbacks, but what country has not got some? The greatest loss to the country in previous years has been caused by frost, but this will in my opinion die out, as the land becomes cultivated. In the early days of the settlement of Ontario crops were frequently nipped by early frosts, but now such a thing is almost unknown. The frosts that do the damage in Manitoba occur about the 22nd of August. This year there was no frost in the country till the 30th, and then was felt in only a few districts, and then there was not sufficient to do any damage. Hailstorms, although more severe, are not more frequent than in England, and the rate of insurance is much the same. Certain parts of the country seem more liable to them than others. Prairie fires occur in the spring and in the autumn. The latter do the most damage, as there are large numbers of corn and hay stacks standing about then, and the grass is also much longer at this time of the year, not having been cut down by the frosts, which enables the fires to spread with much greater rapidity. If there is a strong wind blowing all the time, a deal of

damage is soon done, as the wind blows the sparks across the fire-guards, which are ploughed up. Spring fires are not so much heeded, although they may be seen in all directions, as they are set going by farmers to burn off the stubble and old grass of the prairies. They are gradually growing less frequent and less dangerous, which is owing to the larger amount of ploughed land and to the many roadways which also arrest their progress. The cause of them is generally due to carelessness. A traveller going along the road or "trail" will light his pipe and throw down the match before it is extinguished. He has gone on fifty or a hundred yards before he discovers anything wrong, but then it is too late, as the fire is too strong for him to be able to get it out without help. Another cause is from camp fires not being properly put out, and sparks also sometimes fall from the railway engines. A fine of two hundred dollars is imposed on any person known to have been the cause of such a fire. The rich black soil habitual to the country is said to be caused by prairie fires, which for ages have been leaving a deposit of ashes on the ground.

Loan companies and implement agents have in my opinion been very detrimental to the success of the country. Settlers who have come out short of money have had money advanced to them at a large rate of interest, a mortgage being taken on their homesteads. They often borrow more than they absolutely require, and the interest soon mounts up. The result is that some lose heart and give up. Implement agents sell implements on very easy terms, or apparently so. Their terms are a third cash, the balance to be paid by instalments over a period of three years, with interest at 8 per cent. Many settlers think that these are easy and favourable terms, for they do not have to pay much at a time, and they do not realize what the interest will come to. I heard of several cases in which a man bought a self-binder on such terms the first year he came to the country, only having fifteen or twenty acres to cut; whereas he could have got the use of one from a neighbour for a much lower figure than the interest he would be paying on the machine. Implements are not taken care of as they should be. On many farms I saw self-binders and mowers left out in the fields exposed to the weather all the winter. In some cases the canvasses were not even taken off the binder. New settlers beginning short of capital should borrow no more money than absolutely required.

and the same restriction should be made as to their purchases. Economy is the first way to success in this country.

The need of more stock in the country is felt. They would eat up inferior grain, and the price for low grade grain, if marketed in the form of pork, beef, or mutton, would prove three times as valuable to the producer. I have often been asked in my journey through the country such questions as : "Where is the best place to settle?" and "What are the best parts of the country?" These are questions which I have not been able to solve myself. I found successful farmers in most districts that I visited, who declared that they had been all over the country, and thought that the place they had chosen was the best, and that they had no wish to change. Up at Edmonton and Prince Albert there is a lovely country, and though slightly broken for purely agricultural purposes, no better place could be desired for mixed farming; whilst down on the plains you can plough a furrow for miles without a break. For any one with some capital no better districts could be selected than those at Neepawa, the Portage Plains, Brandon, Glenboro', Wawanesa, and other points in Southern Manitoba. Round Winnipeg there is a great deal of vacant land held by spectators. Some of it is wet, but could easily be drained, and I question very much if one could do better than settle near the city. The land can be bought cheap, and being so near the principal town of the country, is sure to advance in value. The proximity to the best market is also a great advantage. The amount of capital that I consider necessary to start a farm successfully is £200. Many have started with less, but it is not to be recommended, as it always necessitates borrowing, which is a serious handicap. The class of men most wanted in the country are farmers with capital from £200 upwards.

Agricultural labourers will command from \$20 to \$25 a month and board all the year round. Female domestic servants are in great demand all over the country, and will obtain high wages. Householders have great difficulty in keeping servants, as women are scarce, and there is a great demand for wives. Ten to eighteen dollars a month with board is their wage.

In concluding this report, I wish to thank all the people, and they are many, who have shown me kindness and have furnished me with information in travelling through the country. It seems

to me that I have been on a visit among friends, rather than strangers, for everywhere I was treated with great kindness and hospitality.

P. R. RITCHIE.

October 1st, 1892.

Appended hereto is a Summary of the Regulations under which lands may be taken up as Homesteads in accordance with the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

SUMMARY

OF

HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

All even-numbered sections of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North-west Territories, excepting 8 and 26, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or other purposes, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over eighteen years of age, to the extent of one quarter-section of 160 acres, more or less.

ENTRY.

Entry may be made personally at the local land office in which the land to be taken is situate, or if the homesteader desires he may on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, or the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, receive authority for some one to make the entry for him. A fee of \$10 is charged for an ordinary homestead entry; but for lands which have been occupied an additional fee of \$10 is chargeable to meet inspection and cancellation expenses.

HOMESTEAD DUTIES.

Under the present law homestead duties may be performed in three ways, and on making application for entry the settler must declare under which of the following conditions he elects to hold his land:—

1. Three years' cultivation and residence, during which period the settler may not be absent for more than six months in any one year without forfeiting the entry.

2. Residence for two years and nine months anywhere within two miles of the homestead quarter-section, and afterwards actual residence in a habitable house upon the homestead for three months at any time prior to application for patent. Under this system 10 acres must be broken the first year after entry; 15 additional in the

second, and 15 in the third year ; 10 acres to be in crop the second year, and 25 acres the third year.

3. The five years' system under which a settler may reside anywhere for the first two years (but must perfect his entry by commencing cultivation within six months after the date thereof,) breaking 5 acres the first year, cropping these 5 acres and breaking 10 acres additional the second year, and also building a habitable house before the end of the second year. The settler must commence actual residence on the homestead at the expiration of two years from date of entry, and thereafter reside upon and cultivate his homestead for at least six months in each of the three next succeeding years.

APPLICATION FOR PATENT

may be made before the local agent or any homestead inspector. Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands of his intention to do so. When, for convenience of the settler, application for patent is made before a homestead inspector, a fee of \$5 is chargeable.

A SECOND HOMESTEAD

may be taken by any one who, on the second day of June, 1889, had received a homestead patent or certificate of recommendation countersigned by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands upon application for patent made by him, or who had earned title to his first homestead on, or prior to, that date.

INFORMATION.

Newly arrived immigrants will receive, at any Dominion Lands Office in Manitoba or the North-west Territories information as to the lands that are open for entry, and from the officers in charge, free of expense, advice and assistance in securing lands to suit them ; and full information respecting the land, timber, coal and mineral laws, and copies of these Regulations, as well as those respecting Dominion lands in the Railway Belt in British Columbia may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa ; the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, Manitoba ; or to any of the Dominion Lands agents in Manitoba or the North-west Territories.